GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7885
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002
SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS
BHAN SINGH BHAURA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a): whether after the fall of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, some parts of the border of Punjab with Pakistan have become the centre of activities of Narcotic smugglers;

(b) : if so , the effective measures taken by the Government to curb this menace ; and

(c) : the number of culprits nabbed so far till January this year in Punjab and the number of them penalised so far ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): The seizure reports received from various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies do not indicate significant increase in the activities of drug smuggling from across the Indo-Pak border adjoining the State of Punjab.

(b) : The Government of India has taken a number of steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing and flood lighting of Indo-Pak border, vesting of powers in the Border Security Force and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs, notifying certain precursor chemicals, viz., Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine etc. as `Controlled Substances` under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 quarterly coordination meetings by the Narcotics Control Bureau with all Central and State Agencies concerned, holding of periodic bilateral meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies, etc.

(c) : In Punjab 732 persons were arrested for drug trafficking during the years 2001 and 2002(upto January 2002), as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies. All the arrested persons are liable to be prosecuted and punished under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985.